



Medicaid Information Bulletin

October 2004



04 - 96 Billing of Home Health Aide Services

In a March 17, 2004 letter, Home Health Agencies were instructed by Medicaid to bill a variety of home health nursing and aide services using codes that were modified to include the term "visit" as the unit of measure. This change was made at the request of a number of home health agencies to ensure Medicaid was paying for the correct time spent with a patient.

However, since the implementation of this change, other home health agencies have approached the Department indicating that this change is not HIPAA compliant, and that it creates other problems addressing hours spent dealing with the patient. It is the intent of the Department of Health to remain HIPAA compliant in our coding requirements.

For services rendered since October 1, 2003, please consider the term "visits" in the March 17, 2004 letter as "units". A unit consists of services up to two hours in length. Services in excess of two hours would require two "units". There was a maximum of two units per day available under the March 17th letter, so any hours in excess of four per day would be limited to the two unit allowance.

Effective October 1, 2004, the definition of procedure code S9122 (home health aide or certified nurse assistant, providing care in the home) will revert back to the hour designation identified in the code. A unit will equal one hour with a maximum of four units per day. If modification of the prior authorization is required for services rendered, please contact the prior authorization nurse for that change.

Home health agencies need to be aware of Utah Medicaid's differentiation in the codes between patients who have a care giver in the home and those who do not (see Home Health Provider manual). Do not bill codes indicating there is no care giver in the home when there is.

Should you have further questions, please contact the Bureau of Medicaid Operations at 801-538-6155 or 800-662-9651.

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World Wide Web: <http://health.utah.gov/medicaid>

Medicaid Information

- Salt Lake City area, call 538-6155.
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